**Each excerpt below is color-coded for your convenience:**

**inspiring excerpts, interesting excerpts, and funny excerpts!**

**Teamwork**

**The human mind plans the way,**

**but the Lord directs the steps.**

***(Proverbs 16:9)***

## But now, O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter. (Isaiah 64:8)

**This ad was placed in the student newspaper at the University of Oklahoma during graduation week: “Son, we made it! Who says reading and writing won’t get a person a degree – you reading books and me writing checks. Love, Dad.” *(Richard D. Rhodes, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Scientists may be a step closer to a cure for AIDS after a molecular mystery that has stumped experts for years was resolved by video-game players in less than 10 days. Biochemists have long sought to map the molecular structure of an enzyme from an AIDS-like virus so they could stop it from spreading. But it was not until the University of Washington turned the project into an online game that the riddle was solved. Some 57,000 video-gamers, many of them nonscientists, joined together to achieve the breakthrough. *(The Week magazine, September 30, 2011)***

**On a trip to Akron, Ohio, in 1935, Bill Wilson, a recovering alcoholic, sought out fellow drinker Dr. Bob Smith, hoping to lead Smith out of drunkenness and bolster his own sobriety. On June 10, Smith stopped drinking, and Alcoholics Anonymous was born. The two men built AA on the idea of alcoholics aiding one another, using a 12-step protocol that Wilson enumerated in 1938. By 2010, AA had two million members and was the model for many groups facing addictions. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**The song, "America the Beautiful," was originally written as a poem by Katherine Lee Bates, and was published on July 4, 1895, under the title "Pikes Peak." Fifteen years later, the words were set to music by Samuel A. Ward as the song we know today. *(The Daily Chronicles)***

**How do ants keep warm underground? Teams of selected ants take turns going outside to sit in the sun, when there's sun, then go back inside so their bodies can radiate their collected heat to warm the queen, eggs, other indoor ants. When there is no sun, they stay inside, cluster up and hibernate. (L. M. Boyd)**

**A shopper liked the bathing suit she was trying on, but said she couldn’t buy it because she couldn’t close the back zipper without help. “So who goes swimming alone?” asked the quick-witted clerk, and made the sale. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Regarding St. Luke 23:26 of the New Testament, the eastern text reads “bearing the cross after Jesus” -- this means that Jesus was bearing the front part and walking ahead and Simon was carrying the lower end. The heaviest part of the cross rested on Jesus’ shoulders because it had the cross bar. His position was more trying and exhausting as he climbed the steep hill with this burden. It was difficult for him to hold on to the cross and ascend, more especially as the arm of the cross grazed the ground. (George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light, p. 300)**

**Bees can show you something about teamwork. On a warm day about half the bees in a hive stay inside beating their wings while the other half go out to gather pollen and nectar. Because of the beating wings, the temperature inside the hive is about 10 degrees cooler than outside. The bees rotate duties and the bees that cool the hive one day are honey gathers the next. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Ben and Jerry learned how to make ice cream by taking a $5 correspondence course offered by Penn State. The friends decided to split one course. (The Daily Chronicle)**

**Irving Berlin, America's most prolific songwriter has never learned to read music or to write it. He hums or sings his songs to a secretary, who takes them down in musical notation. (Isaac Asimov)**

**Sixty thousand miles of vessels carry blood to every part of the adult body. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 324)**

**William Proctor made candles. James Gamble made soap. When they became business partners, they needed hardly any time at all to think up a name for their company. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Why do butterflies have two sets of wings? Not to stay aloft, it turns out. Scientists from Carnegie Mellon and Cornell found that cabbage white butterflies with their hind-wings removed could fly as far and as high as before. But they were slower to turn. This suggests hind-wings are the key to aerial agility, a trait that helps butterflies evade hungry birds. *(Amanda Bensen, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Something for Everyone: A man and his wife stopped in front of a store window bearing the sign: "Buy Now. Pay Later." He turned to her and said, "Now that's what I call salesmanship. They give us both something to do." (Rusty Hale)**

**A camel is a horse designed by a committee. (Sir Alex Issigonis, car designer)**

**The church choir was putting on a car wash to raise money to pay their expenses for a special trip. They made a very large sign, CAR WASH FOR CHOIR TRIP, and on the given Saturday business was very good. But by two o’clock the skies clouded and the rain poured and there were hardly any customers. Finally, one of the girl washers had an idea. She printed up an even bigger poster which said, WE WASH (then an arrow pointing skyward) GOD RINSES. Business boomed! (Pulpit Helps)**

**That itty-bitty caterpillar’s body contains more than 2,000 muscles. (Kathy Wolfe, in Tidbits)**

**Scientists have identified more than 200 compounds that contribute to the flavor of chocolate. (Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)**

**Some strengths reveal themselves only when combined with those of other people. In his autobiography, Jerry Lewis recalls that as a young comedian performing in small clubs, he enjoyed only moderate success with his slapstick. One day, after a club singer had bombed, Lewis recommended a friend named Dean Martin as a replacement. Because Lewis had already told the club owner that he and Martin did a comedy routine together, the two were forced to come up with an act. Within days, the duo was performing in Atlantic City before enthusiastic crowds. By 1949, their first movie together, My Friend Irma, was a box-office smash, and Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis went on to become one of the most successful comedy teams in film history. (Donald O. Clifton & Paula Nelson, in Reader’s Digest)**

**If you add up the moving parts in a concert grand piano, you'll get to 12,000 even before you count the keys and pedals. (L. M. Boyd)  
  
A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing but together can decide that nothing can be done. (Fred Allen)**

**Learning without thought is useless; thought without learning is dangerous. (Confucius)**

**Both optimists and pessimists contribute to our society. The optimist invents the airplane and the pessimist the parachute. (G. B. Stern, author)  
  
Wasn't it General Sherman who burned Atlanta during the Civil War? His soldiers did plenty of damage, but the burning was the work of retreating Confederates, who blew up 81 freight cars of ammo. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**On the dance floor, as in life, you're only as good as your partner. (Robin Marantz Henig, in USA Today)**

**On September 8, 1504, one of the world's most beloved works of art, "David," by Michaelangelo Buonarroti, is unveiled to the public in Florence, Italy's Piazza della Signoria. It reportedly took 40 men four days to move the 17-foot-tall, 12,000-pound marble masterpiece 1/2 mile to the site. (Moments in Time: THE HISTORY CHANNEL)**

**Can you taste them? The secret recipe for Dr. Pepper is said to contain 23 fruit flavors. (*Uncle John's Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 344)***

**Dolphins in Florida Bay will swim around a school of fish in shallow water and disturb the bottom with their tails, creating a ring of mud around the fish. The fish then jump out of the water to escape the ring and are caught in midair by the waiting sea mammals.(Don Voorhees, in *The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 163)***

**A mother and father were getting ready for a party as their two children watched from the doorway. First Mom fastened Dad’s cuff links. Then Dad zipped up the back of Mom’s dress. Mom knotted Dad’s tie, and Dad fastened the clasp of her pearls. On and on it went. As the parents completed the ritual, one of the kids turned to the other and said, “I wonder why they expect us to dress ourselves?” *(Reminisce Extra magazine)***

**Copernicus came to believe in a strange phenomenon that his contemporaries rejected: The Earth moves around the sun. But he never came up with a proper explanation for it; that was left to Newton. *(Oliver Morton, in Discover magazine)***

**When General Eisenhower was asked how he managed to keep the diverse elements together in the battle of Europe, he said, “Sir, it is one team or we lose.” (Joe Griffith, in Speaker's Library of Business , p. 349)**

**Elephants grasp teamwork: Wild elephants work together to care for their young, help injured members of their herd, and even mourn their dead. Are they doing so out of pure reflex or because they understand the advantages of common action? To find out, Cambridge University scientists put 12 pachyderms from the Thai Elephant Conservation Center in pairs and gave each partner one end of a rope; the middle of the rope was attached by pulleys to food that was out of reach. All the elephants quickly learned that, to retrieve the snack, both ends had to be tugged at the same time. But beyond that, they demonstrated an understanding of their partners’ role. When scientists sent an elephant to the apparatus alone, she would wait up to 45 seconds for help to arrive – a long time by the standards of a hungry elephant. And if no partner came, or if only one end of the rope was available, the elephants often didn’t bother trying at all. Lead author Joshua Plotnik tells ScienceNews.com that the findings put elephants “on par with chimps” in social awareness. “I was surprised how quickly they learned,” he says. “Clearly elephants fit in the top echelon of animal intelligence.” (The Week magazine, March 25, 2011)**

**At Donnelly Mirrors, employees work as a team. If you don't do your work you have to answer to the team, not the company. Each team member is responsible to the other members of the team. (Joe Griffith, in Speaker's Library of Business , p. 350)**

**There are 10,221 contributors to the Encyclopedia Britannica. (E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts , p. 100)**

**Charles and Myrtle Fillmore worked together to build Unity. It was Myrtle Fillmore who first accepted the idea of divine healing; it was Charles Fillmore who edited the first magazine. It was Myrtle Fillmore who first led Silent Unity; it was Charles Fillmore who named the work Unity and developed it into the world-wide organization it is today. It was Myrtle Fillmore who led the people in meditation and prayer; it was Charles Fillmore who made speeches and wrote books. They worked together as heart and head work together, and from their united efforts grew the great movement that is Unity. If Mrs. Fillmore supplied the original impetus, it was her husband who supplied the greater part of the energy that carried it forward. (James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 14)**

**A man was walking in a wilderness. He became lost and was unable to find his way out. Another man met him. “Sir, I am lost, can you show me the way out of this wilderness?” “No,” said the stranger, “I cannot show you the way out of the wilderness, but maybe if I walk with you, we can find it together. (Emery Nester)**

**Fire ants’ cohesive genius: Fire ants aren’t just stinging nuisances, researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology have found. They are also marvels of engineering teamwork. When a colony is washed out by flood, thousands of the insects quickly assemble into a tightly woven pancake-shaped raft that can float for months without a single ant drowning. “Together they form this really complex material” that water can’t get through, lead researcher Nathan Mlot tells Nature.com. You could even mold the ant cluster “into a ball and toss it up in the air, and all the ants would stay together.” That unique quality comes partly from their super-strength – ants can grip one another with their legs and mandibles with a force 400 times greater than their body weight – but also because the insects are so well organized. By quickly interlocking their thousands of bodies, they create a rough surface that traps air for breathing, makes them more buoyant, and repels water much like the waterproof fabric Gore-Tex does. Bioengineers say the ants offer useful design lessons for everything from better crowd-control schemes to floating robot swarms that clean up oil spills. (The Week magazine, May 13, 2011)**

**The first United States Congress convened in New York City’s newly built Federal Hall March 4, 1789. “I believe there will be inclination and abilities in the two houses to do everything that reasonable and sensible men can promise to themselves,” wrote Pennsylvania Senator Robert Morris. Before ending their session in 1791, the 95 members formed committees; established procedures; created the departments of war, foreign affairs and the treasury; enacted the supreme, federal and district courts – and passed the Bill of Rights. (*Alison Mclean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Eighty-three flight hours, two stops and 7,388 miles after leaving Oakland, California, Australian pilot Charles Kingsford Smith and his team landed their Fokker F.VIIB plane Southern Cross in Brisbane, Australia, to complete the first trans-Pacific flight, June 9, 1928. “None could have succeeded without the others,” said Kingsford Smith, who died, at 38, in a 1935 plane crash. *Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**When Henry Ford’s production lines peaked in 1925, a Model T rolled off the line every 24 seconds. (L. M. Boyd)**

**A jury consists of twelve persons chosen to decide who has the better lawyer. (Robert Frost)  
Unlike Darwin, who believed in “the survival of the fittest” as the biological basis of evolution, James Lovelock, a young British scientist, sees mutual benefit as the engine of biological progress. In the age of Gaia, it's cooperation, not competition, that makes the world go ‘round. (Ross Evan West, in New Realities magazine)\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
Recently, a minister noticed a flock of geese flying in their traditional “V” formation, heading for Canada. It reminded him of a study he had read about. Two engineers learned that each bird, by flapping its wings, creates an uplift for the bird that follows. Together, the whole flock gains something like 70 percent greater flying range than if they were journeying alone. (Joe Griffith, in Speaker's Library of Business , p. 351)**

**Migrating geese fly in a V formation o conserve energy. A goose’s wings churn the air and leave an air current behind. In the flying wedge, each bird is in position to get a lift from the current left by the bird ahead. It is easier going for all except the leader. During a migration, geese are apt to take turns in the lead position. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 241)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Gilbert and Sullivan didn't like each other. They collaborated by correspondence to turn out their 14 comic operas. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Good week for: Small government, after the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in wildfire-prone Simi Valley, California, was given a protective firebreak by a team of 356 goats, which devoured the surrounding undergrowth. The goats do a "tremendous job," said library spokeswoman, Melissa Giller. (*The Week magazine, May 21, 2021)***

**There are records of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco withstanding a great gale that lashed the structure up and down and sideways. When the storm abated, people marveled at the miracle of modern design and skilled craftsmanship. The wisdom came through the architect, and it was evident that he had worked with a master plan. (Divine Science Consecration Course, Lesson 4)**

**Good week for: Teamwork, after dozens of Tokyo commuters pushed a 32-ton train carriage away from the platform, freeing a woman who had fallen into the 8-inch gap between the train and platform during the morning rush hour. The woman emerged unscathed. (The Week magazine, August 2, 2013)**

**There may be Peace without Joy, and Joy without Peace, but the two combined make happiness. (John Buchan, Scottish author)**

**Typically, there are 250 flowers in a Hawaiian lei. (L. M. Boyd)**

**How Hugh Hefner first funded Playboy: got $600 loan against his own furniture; got $1,000 from his mom; got $1,000 from a brother; got $5,400 from other sources (total investment of $8,000. *(FSB Fortune Small Business magazine)***

**Somehow or other, I've got to help you get me through life. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**Few business leaders get to be highly recognized names in the world at large even in the broadest business community like the team of William Hewlett and David Packard. In 1938 they pooled $538 to found their namesake Hewlett-Packard in a rented garage. Hewlett focused his energy on leading the technology side of the now $31 billion high-tech leader. Packard, who died last year at 83, wrestled with managing the day-to-day operation. Many believe that David Packard’s chief legacy may be his management style. His employees awarded him a M.B.W.A. Degree – Master By Walking Around” for the legwork expended in his belief that upper management should remain close to workers. The “HP Way” also strived to maintain a small company atmosphere even as the workforce expanded to 100,000. Employees were allowed freedom, and internal competition was encouraged while working toward a shared objective. Packard’s commitment to employees was also legendary. In 1990 to come out of semi-retirement to help manage a sweeping corporate overhaul that successfully averted the job losses that subsequently hit many other high-tech companies. The thinking behind that 1990 effort can be tracked back to HP’s beginnings, about which Packard said: “We weren’t interested in the idea of making money. Our idea was, if you couldn’t find a job, you’d make one for yourself.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Did you hear about the desperado who tried to hijack a bus full of Japanese tourists? Fortunately, police had 5000 photographs of the suspect. (Barry Cryer, in American Radio Theater)**

**A hiker was taking a walk in the woods when a bear began to chase him. To escape, the man was forced to climb a tree. Seeing the hiker perched on a limb, the bear began to shake the tree vigorously. Just when the man didn’t think he could hang on any longer, the bear left. Climbing down from the tree, the man took a deep breath and started on his hike again. He hadn’t gone very far when he saw the bear coming back – this time with its big brother. Again the man climbed a tree, only to have both bears shake the tree. When the bears finally gave up and left, the man decided he’d had enough and that it was time to go home. Quickly climbing down the tree, the hiker started on his way . . . and not a minute too soon. As he looked back, he saw the bears coming back again – with a beaver! (Jenna Woodburn, in Country magazine)**

**Driving along a California highway one day, I saw a neatly dressed young man, who looked like a hitch-hiking college student, holding a sign that read: “Stop at Joe’s, 100 yards ahead.” Another young man stood about a football field’s length down the ramp. He displayed a large sign that read: “Joe’s.” (Lloyd D. Reynolds, in Reader’s Digest)**

**God made only water, but man made wine. *(Victor Hugo)***

**There is something called the Hundredth Monkey Concept which essentially states that when a group of individuals believing in or acting in a similar way reaches a certain number a kind of quantum leap occurs and it shifts race mind. I believe this is true. However, it takes one individual heart and mind filled with peace to initiate it; it takes other individuals hearts and minds filled with peace to support it and energize it; and it takes one individual heart and mind filled with peace to produce the quantum leap in race mind. (Sandra Radhoff, in Spectrum newspaper)**

**As manager of an ice-cream shop, I greeted a mother and her two sons, who were eager to place their orders for a milkshake and a banana split. “And you, ma’am, what would you like?” I asked the mother. “Nothing today,” she replied. “I’m on a diet.” Perturbed, one son looked up at her. “Aw, Mom,” he said, “does that mean you’re going to help me eat mine again?” (Lamar Logan, in Reader’s Digest)  
One of Algeria's few streams contains much iron. Another drains from a peat deposit. They join. The chemicals, swirled together, make a little river of true black ink. (L. M. Boyd)**

## **Despite various attempts to claim credit, the vaccines would not exist without international cooperation. In a Massachusetts lab last January 13, Moderna researchers used the genetic sequence of the virus, made public by China, to design an mRNA molecule that teaches the immune system to recognize and neutralize it. Moderna's vaccine employs technology created by Hungarian-born scientist Katalin Kariko, and the company is run by a team of researchers and entrepreneurs from around the world. The Pfizer vaccine was created by second-generation Turkish immigrants to Germany, Ugur Sahin and Ozlem Tureci, and has been pushed past the finish line by company CEO Albert Bourla, an immigrant from Greece. (William Falk, in The Week magazine, December 25, 2020)**

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**It takes two wings for a bird to fly. (Jesse Jackson, C0ivil rights leader)**

**God doesn’t make orange juice; God makes oranges. (*Jesse Jackson*) *6189813***

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**Find out where you can render a service, then render it. The rest is up to the Lord. (S. S. Kresge)**

**The ladybug is the state insect of Colorado, named after a class of second-graders who convinced the state legislature to adopt it. (Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)**

**Legend has it that one day a man was walking in the desert when he met Fear and Plague. They said they were on their way to a city to kill 10,000 people The man asked Plague if he was going to do all the work. Plague smiled and said, “No, I’ll take care of only a few hundred. I’ll let my friend Fear do the rest.” (Dr. Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)**

**Remember Jill Jackson who wrote the words to that beautiful song sung in so many of our churches today, LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH AND LET IT BEGIN WITH ME? Now Jill has another idea that is almost sure to catch fire and spread in the same way her song keeps reaching more and more people. Millions of people today are singing the “Peace Song”, millions are believing that each one of us is “one” of four billion neighbors on earth. They are, she says, “singing and believing that we can make a difference.” So, Jill prayed for a way to help her life have a real meaning for bringing peace, in thought, word and deed and the following inspiration came to her. She wrote me: “I send out mail. I can write at an angle across each letter and post card, saying a prayer as I write it, LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH AND LET IT BEGIN WITH ME. I can tell others. Beginning with only one person if I tell three others who will do the same it can go to everyone on earth in only 21 days - 1 x 3 x 3 x 3 x 3 x 3 x 3 etc.” (Cornelia Addington, in Abundant Living magazine)**

**Everyone needs recognition for his accomplishments, but few people make the need known quite as clearly as the little boy who said to his father: “Let's play darts. I'll throw and you say ‘Wonderful!’” (Bits & Pieces)**

**When the Lewis and Clark Expedition reached the Pacific Ocean in November of 1805, the commanders faced an important choice: whether to encamp near the mouth of the Columbia for the winter or head back upriver immediately. They reached their decision in a most unmilitary manner: They asked every member to vote. Included in the polling were York, Clark's black slave (though black men would not be enfranchised in America for another 65 years), and Sacagawea (though Indians and women would wait another hundred years to vote in the United States). The majority voted to stay on the coast. (Dayton Duncan, in The Old Farmer's Almanac-1994, p. 100)**

**The Lord and I make a great team, I know where I've been, and he knows where I'm going. (Argus poster)**

**$340 million: The biggest jackpot in U. S. lottery history claimed by two couples in Salem, Oregon. Lottery officials confirmed that Steve West, 48, a landscaper, his wife, Carolyn, 47, and his in-laws, Bob and Frances Chaney, held the winning ticket in October 19 Powerball drawing. The four, who live in southern Oregon, had gone in together on $40 worth of tickets. *(Rocky Mountain News, 2005)***

**On a Marietta, GA, church marquee: “The Lord giveth if you worketh.” *(Patricia Patterson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew. (Marshall McLuhan)**

**Teamwork means never having to take all the blame yourself. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Who was the first professional model? A pretty Parisian shop-clerk named Maria Vernet Worth. In 1852. Her husband, who sold dresses, found out he sold more when she helped. (L. M. Boyd)**

**It wasn’t his first car and won’t be his last, but the Model T, which Henry Ford introduced in October 1908, secured his place in automobile history. The first car to be mass-produced with standardized parts, the four-cylinder, 20-horsepower vehicle sold initially for $850. The assembly line – new in 1913 – turned out a Model T every 71 seconds, and by production’s end in 1927 more than 15 million “Tin Lizzies” were sold, fulfilling Ford’s dream of “a motor car for the great multitude.” *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world. (Mother Teresa)**

**The first sculptor to work on the sixty-foot-high faces of four U. S. Presidents on Mount Rushmore, South Dakota, was Gutzon Borghum. He spent fourteen years, from 1927 to 1941, carving the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. However, Gutzon Borghum died before the job was completed. His son finished the work -- and his son's first name was, appropriately, Lincoln. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell , p. 163)**

**In China, the doctors we interviewed were trained in Western medicine but also practiced the medicine of their ancestors. They find that these approaches together are more powerful than either is separately. (Bill Moyers, in USA Weekend, February 5, 1993)**

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**If you want to put about 400 muscles to work, take a walk. (L. M. Boyd)  
Every time you smile, you use thirteen muscles. When you frown you use fifty muscles. Frankly, you get a better workout when you frown. I prefer it to jogging because you can do it sitting down. (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 11)**

**It takes thirteen muscles in your leg and twenty in your foot to turn your foot outward. You use seventy-two muscles just to speak one word. *(Barbara Seuling, in You Can’t Sneeze with Your Eyes Open, p. 30)***

**The most subtle use of muscles is said to be involved in speaking: shaping the tongue, lips, oral cavity, throat, larynx, and lungs. (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia , p. 11)**

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**Five years after a fire destroyed its 19th-century wooden spire, 800-year-old Notre-Dame Cathedral reopened this month. The Parisian landmark, a World Heritage site that attracts 13 million visitors annually, underwent an extensive restoration supported by 2,000 workers. They cleaned more than 450,000 square feet of the interior, removing ash, lead dust, and centuries-old grime. A total of 340,000 donors from 150 countries contributed to the $737 million cost. The cathedral now features three new bells and a 315-foot spire. At least 1,300 stones were used to reconstruct fire-damaged walls and vaults. French President Emmanuel Macron called the restoration “a human adventure of epic proportions.” *(The Week magazine, December 13, 2024)***

**Dolly says to Billy at the beach: “You’ll never empty out the whole ocean yourself, P.J. Here – I’ll help you!” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**Around 5,800 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences vote for the Oscars. It takes twelve people twenty hours to make one Oscar statuette. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 69)***

**What one pair produces: Cockroaches -- 30,000 young in one year; Termites -- 30,000 in one day; Frogs -- 250,000 in lifetime; Red crabs -- 3,000 at one time; Locusts -- 1,000 at one time; Army ants -- 100,000 at one time. *(World Features Syndicate)*  
In 1921, Moe Radavitz, Emanuel Rosenfeld, Maurice Strauss and Graham Jackson pooled their money to open an auto supply store in Philadelphia. They needed a short name for their business, because the storefront was only a few feet across. Inspired by a shipment from Pep Valve Grinding Compound, the men became collectively known as the Pep Boys. Radavitz soon left the business to his three partners, who gained fame under the names Manny, Moe & Jack. (John R. Groesbeck, in Tidbits)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The Presidential Seal shows the American eagle clutching arrows in one talon and an olive branch in the other. Some of you may have seen the Seal reproduced on china and other art objects in the White House or in the diplomatic reception rooms of the State Department. On some of the older items, the eagle looks toward the arrows; on others, toward the olive branch. It was President Truman who set it straight: he saw to it that the eagle on the Presidential Seal always looked toward the olive branch -- showing that America sought peace. But the eagle still holds on to those arrows. This is a way of saying that our forefathers understood quite well that power and diplomacy always go together. (George P. Shultz, in Vital Speeches of the Day)**

**The President's Cabinet is not mentioned in the Constitution. But George Washington found that he had to consult regularly with the Secretary of State and other heads of major departments, and the Cabinet developed from this practice of the first President. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 140)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*An 18-foot-long snake seems to undulate across the desert of Australia’s Northern Territory. It’s actually a trail of more than 100 two-inch long caterpillars lined up head to tail, marching relentlessly over the sand. The aptly named processionary caterpillars are larvae of the bag-shelter moth, and live and feed in acacia trees, where they spin a large nest of silk and suspend it from one or two branches. When the food supply runs low, the caterpillars strike out in single file to find a new acacia. Traveling mostly at night, the insects spin continuous threads, literally creating a silk road that helps keep the line together. After locating a promising tree, the larvae build a new nest. (John L. Eliot, in National Geographic)**

**Billy: "Daddy, if you can't finish your pudding, I might be able to help you." (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**During a hike in the woods a troop of boy scouts came across an abandoned section of railroad track. Each, in turn, tried walking the rails but eventually lost his balance and tumbled off. Suddenly two of the boys, after considerable whispering, offered to bet that they could both walk the entire length of the track without falling off. Challenged to make good their boast, the two boys jumped in on opposite rails, extended a hand to balance each other, and walked the entire section of track with no difficulty whatever. (Bits & Pieces)  
Observe the Redwoods of California. Their roots are the shallowest of all trees. If they stood alone, they would fall, but together their roots intertwine, and they grow to be the strongest and tallest of all. (Robert Wood, in Along The Path, p. 109)**

**In ancient Babylon, doctors exhibited their most desperately ill patients in the public square, hoping that anyone passing by who knew of a remedy would speak up. (Barbara Seuling)**

**Five brothers raised in Baraboo, Wisconsin, started a little family business, doing all the work themselves. They didn't know all they needed to know about running a business, at first. So it was a real circus. Really. They were the Ringling Brothers. (L. M. Boyd)**

**St. Bernards never carried casks of brandy to the snowbound, but they did locate those lost in an avalanche and dig them out. The dogs worked in male-female pairs. Both would dig victims out. The female would lie next to them to keep them warm, while the male would go for help. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 163)***

**The two elemental components of salt, sodium (Na) and chlorine (Cl), are both very nasty elements on their own. Sodium is a highly reactive metal that will burst into flames and explode when added to water. Chlorine gas was used as a weapon during World War I and was responsible for ninety-one thousand deaths. *(Don Voorhees, in The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 117)***

**U.S. and Soviet scientists will cruise the Pacific together this month to measure the atmosphere for increased levels of human-caused pollutants contributing to global climate change. Researchers from several universities and labs - including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder - will join the Soviets in Hilo, Hawaii, January 26. For six weeks, they will study atmospheric photochemistry and the mixing of air from the Northern and Southern hemispheres in a region known as the Intertropical Convergence Zone. They also will measure ocean sources of nitrous oxide, a major contributor to the greenhouse effect and the destruction of ozone in the stratosphere. *(Rocky Mountain News, January 14, 1990)*  
Richard Warren Sears decided to go into the watch business in a big way. Naturally, a few of the watches malfunctioned. To fix them, he hired another ex-farm boy, a 24-year-old watchmaker named Alvah Curtis Roebuck, a practical, cautious fellow, quite the opposite of audacious, venturous Sears. Business was great. Sears made Roebuck a partner, and in 1888 they put out the R.W. Sears Watch Company mail order catalogue. They did so well that they moved to Chicago in 1893 and incorporated as Sears, Roebuck and Co. on August 15. (Lawrence Doorley, in The Old Farmer's Almanac-1994, p. 245)**

**Pat Robertson’s 700 Club program was originally supported by seven hundred Christians in Portsmouth, Virginia, who each pledged a contribution of ten dollars a month, hence the name. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 116)***

**Dad: “I went to six meetings and got the car serviced!” Mom: “I ran about a hundred errands and made a nice dinner! We have a great team!” Dad: “Yeah, but with a really shallow bench.” Zoe: “Do we have to set the whole table, or just the silverware?” (Kirkman & Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)**

**Assembly-line methods made it possible for the U.S. shipyards of Henry J. Kaiser during World War II to produce a ship in just four days. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts)**

**My wife’s an earth sign. I’m a water sign. Together we make mud. (Henny Youngman)**

**A single snowflake may contain more than 200 snow crystals. (Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)**

**The loaded station wagon pulled into the only remaining campsite. Four youngsters leaped from the vehicle and began feverishly unloading gear and setting up a tent. The boys then rushed off to gather firewood, while the girls and their mother set up the camp stove and cooking utensils. A nearby camper marveled to the youngsters’ father: “That, sir, is some display of teamwork.” “I have a system,” the father replied. “No one goes to the bathroom until the camp is set up.” (Bits & Pieces)**

**There's always some argument, you know, about which is the most important to a song's success -- words or the music. Well, the story goes that after the success of the musical Showboat, the wife of Jerome Kern, who wrote the music, and the wife of Oscar Hammerstein II, who wrote the lyrics, were at a party. A lady came up to Mrs. Kern and gushed, “Oh my goodness, your husband is the man who wrote that wonderful Old Man River.” And Mrs. Hammerstein spoke up and said, “No dear--my husband wrote Old Man River. Her husband wrote, ‘Dum-dum-dum-dum, da-dum-dum-dum-dum...’” (Joe Griffith, in Speaker's Library of Business , p. 350)**

**Pack Hunters: Lions, orcas, hyenas, some hawks and a few other species hunt collaboratively, and now researchers have added a fish to that list. Yellow saddle goatfish in the Red Sea often congregate. And when one fish starts accelerating toward a prey fish, its associates join the hunt. These “blockers” spread out over the reef to cut off the prey’s escape routes, giving the group of goatfish a better chance at making a successful catch. The behavior was observed by researchers from the University of Neuchatel in Switzerland. Other species of goatfish eat only invertebrates, while the yellow saddle variety chases mainly other fish. The researchers suggest that collaborative hunting may have evolved in this species to allow the goatfish to exploit a faster and more nimble source of food. (Smithsonian magazine)**

**Pray as if everything depended on God, and work as if everything depended upon man. (Francis Cardinal Spellman)\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
It took two hundred men, working seven days a week, nine years to build the Statue of Liberty. *(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 244)***

**The people of France, inspired by a committee of private citizens known as the Franco-American Union, had dug into their pockets to raise the two million francs (then $400,000) that enabled sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi to devote nine years to the Statue of Liberty's creation. (Thomas Fleming, in Reader's Digest)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*No baseball pitcher would be worth a darn without a catcher who could handle the hot fastball. (Casey Stengel, baseball manager)**

**Fran Tarkenton was one of football's outstanding quarterbacks over his 17-year sports career. Then he founded his own management-consulting firm specializing in training and productivity programs. In a football huddle, Tarkenton sometimes let linemen suggest plays because, he says, “They were closer to the action than the head coach on the sidelines was.” His team experience on the gridiron, he adds, was more important to the success of his business career than was his formal business administration education. (Charles A. Garfield, in Reader's Digest)**

**The wider a radio telescope dish is, the finer the details it can resolve in stars, galaxies and quasars. But it is impossible to build a single, steerable dish that is more than several hundred feet wide. To overcome this obstacle, a technique called aperture synthesis takes the signals from several small telescopes and combines them by computer to produce a telescope effectively as wide as the distance between the dishes. (Reader's Digest)**

**My No. 6 Wonder of the World is, I hesitate to say, the termite. This time, though, it is not the single insect that is the Wonder, but the collectivity. There is nothing at all wonderful about a single termite. Two or three termites gathered together are not much better; but keep adding termites until they reach a critical mass, and then the miracle begins. As though they had suddenly received a piece of extraordinary news, they organize in platoons and begin stacking up pellets to precisely the right height and then turning the arches to connect the columns, constructing the cathedral and its chambers in which the colony will live out its life for the decades ahead, air-conditioned and humidity-controlled, following the chemical blueprint coded in their genes, flawlessly, stone-blind. They are not the dense mass of individual insects they appear to be; they are an organism, a thoughtful, meditative brain on a million legs. It is a mystery, something to smile in the presence of. *(Lewis Thomas, in Reader's Digest)***

**Dolly says to Billy: “This time we can’t both hide. One of us has to seek!” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

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**It takes your enemy and your friend, working together, to hurt you: the one to slander you, and the other to bring the news to you. (Mark Twain)**

**Mark Twain's wife Olivia was his copyreader. After their marriage, nothing he wrote went out of his hands without her editing. He often rewrote at her suggestion. (Boyd's Curiosity Shop, p. 247)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*One thing about the two-handed backhand in tennis is it cuts way down on the chances of getting tennis elbow. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Football's instant replay can seem pretty slow sometimes, but it's not as slow as early baseball's witness interview. There was a time when umpires occasionally took testimony from players, managers and spectators before making a ruling. (L. M. Boyd)**

**After inventing and patenting a small appliance that automatically mixed drinks, F. J. Osius had no means, nor the money, to promote and finance its sale. So he went to Fred Waring, a popular bandleader who had a fascination with new gadgets, and convinced him to market the creation to the numerous hotels and restaurants he would visit on tour. Waring agreed, and Osius’ drink mixer became known as the Waring Blender. (David Hoffman, in Little-Known Facts about Well-Known Stuff, p. 127)**

**The Washington Monument is the world’s tallest freestanding stone structure not created from a single block of stone. The monument is composed of more than 36,000 separate blocks. It stands a whopping 555 feet tall and weighs approximately 90,854 tons! The outside is composed almost entirely of white marble, while the inside is granite. (Armchair Reader: Vitally Useless Information, p. 53)**

**Two business partners were having trouble getting along. One was Mr.  
Outside. He was involved in marketing and sales and he felt that he was working twice as hard as his partner. The partner was Mr. Inside. He stuck to the office and tended to the books. His chief concern was the bottom line. One day Mr. Outside had lunch with a friend and sought his advice about the problem. “See this glass of water?” said the friend. “It's made up of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen -- H 2 O. Any other mix is something else. In water, hydrogen and oxygen work together but hydrogen has to do twice the work. That's why all the planets we know about are barren. That teamwork between hydrogen and oxygen doesn't exist.” “I'll drink to that,” said Mr. Outside, vowing to stop worrying about individual credit and to start concentrating on team gains. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Helga: “What are you doing out here?” Hagar: “You always say we don’t do anything together, so, I thought I’d join you. You cook, I’ll eat!” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**A gentleman had worked on his garden a great deal, and all his work and effort had really borne fruit. One day another fellow came along and saw this gentleman working in his beautiful garden and said, “How blessed you are. You must be so grateful to God for what He has done for you. He has blessed you with a truly beautiful garden.” The man kept going on praising God for all that he had done for this man who was working so hard in his garden. As the fellow kept working and listening, sweat was pouring off his brow. Pretty soon the gardener looked up, wiped the sweat from his face and said to the gentleman, “Yes, you're right. I truly am grateful to God for all that He has done for me. But you should have seen this garden when God had it alone.”(Frank Giudici, Unity Minister)**

**Working together works. (Bits & Pieces)**

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**Orville Wright to brother Wilbur: “This time you fly the plane, and let me do the stewardess interviews.” (One to One)**

**One day a small boy was trying to lift a heavy stone, but he couldn’t budge it. His father, passing by, stopped to watch his efforts. Finally he said to his son: “Are you using all your strength?” “Yes, I am,” the boy cried, exasperated. “No,” the father said calmly, “you’re not. You haven’t asked me to help you.” (Bits & Pieces)**

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